

**RACKER BLOCK:
ADAM'S DRUGSTORE
MALAN UNDERTAKING AND ELECTRICAL
LEHI FREE PRESS
WATHEN'S MODERN SHOE REPAIR
WORLTON/DAVIS DENTAL OFFICE
PORTER'S PLACE**

Construction: 1915

Address: 24, 32, and 36 West Main

Present owners: Kip/Paula Peterson (32, 36 West Main)

Robert Trepanier (24 West Main)

The Racker Block, now occupying 24, 32, and 36 West Main, was built in 1915, during world War I, by local merchant W.E. Racker. Racker, who had established Racker Mercantile in 1904, bought the Anders Peterson property in 1913. The historic adobe home on the site was demolished. Construction on the Racker Block began. The fifty-six feet wide and sixty feet long office complex was divided into three compartments.

When the facility was completed in 1915, the compartment on the west end (36 West Main) was Leonard Adams's drugstore. During this period of Prohibition much of a druggist's business consisted of filling liquor prescriptions--purely for medicinal purposes, mind you. N.O. Malan's Undertaking Parlor was established on the premises in 1921. Subsequently the place has housed M.S. Lott's plumbing and electrical business (1931), Gilchrist Hardware (1933), and Lehi Hardware--Glen and Alva Wing (1937).

When the Wing brothers moved in 1941 their former quarters were taken over by Utah Power and Light Company which maintained a local office there until the local National Guard unit took up quarters on the premises in the fall of 1949.

When the Guard moved elsewhere, 36 West Main became home to Orlin Wathen's Modern Shoe Repair in 1953. After Wathen moved elsewhere in 1960,

his former quarters became the Utah Finance Company. Since then it has been Palmercrafft (1975), Timberline (1979), Artworks Plus (1983), Kyle Hutchings' Furniture Refinishing (1983-1991), and Peacock's Studio (1991-1997).

The middle compartment (24 West Main) initially was M.S. Lott's plumbing and electrical business (1915). In 1932 George P. Price established the *Lehi Free Press*, which remained in this spot until 1981 when the owners consolidated production facilities with the *American Fork Citizen*. Alpine Publishing Company, now owned by Kip Peterson, occupies 24 West Main today. He shares his facility with Timpanogos Credit Union.

M.S. Lott expanded his business to the east portion of the Racker Block (24 West Main) in 1921. From 1931-38 the *Lehi Sun* maintained its office here. Despite being next-door neighbors, the publishers of the *Sun* and *Free Press* were anything but cordial. Words flew like fur in a cat fight. Although no lives were lost in Lehi's newspaper war, the situation did result in nasty litigation. The *Sun* moved to 101 West Main in 1938, its former office then became Dr. W.L. Worlton's dentist office. From 1959-61 Dr. Kent Davis leased it.

In July of 1971 Frank and Dennis Huggard remodeled the former dental office into Porter's Place, a restaurant inspired by Porter Rockwell, one of Lehi's most notorious historical citizens of the past. Russ Schneider purchased Porter's in the late 1970s. From 1986 until now, Robert Trepanier has owned the restaurant.

Porter's Place has met with considerable success over the years. On a Friday or Saturday night one can hardly find a parking place on Main Street. When you saunter into the restaurant you immediately sense atmosphere. High above the spittoon-equipped bar (salvaged from a Montana saloon) hang two huge likenesses of the famed Porter Rockwell, which seem to beckon "Welcome folks, sit down and eat, or else!"